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THE EDGE

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The Voice of Integrity
at Fort Hays State University

April 24, 2007; Volume 2, Issue 14 ●●● Hays, Kansas 67601

Campus Safety?

Fort Hays discusses emergency plans

Mike Courson
Staff Writer

The college campus is supposed to be a safe place, but that view may have been shattered last week when a Virginia Tech senior killed 32 students and then killed himself.

The tragedy has since garnered nearly 24-hour news coverage and raised a lot of questions about the safety of the college campus, including Fort Hays State.

Last Tuesday, Kent Steward, Director of University Relations at Fort Hays, sent an email to all Fort Hays students. The email contained a vague outline of Fort Hay State's own policy regarding emergency situations. In a follow-up interview, Steward further discussed some of those policies.

If a situation does arise on campus, the call is most likely to go through University Police first, Steward said.

"When there is some sort of emergency, the first thing that happens is the appropriate people respond to the actual



emergency, and they proceed to do the things they are trained to do to handle that emergency," he said. "The second and equally important thing that kicks in is that they probably, if they have any inkling at all that it's a significant emergency, they will contact me or any of the other handful of members on our

emergency crisis team."

After that, the emergency crisis team either meets in person or is contacted by phone or email to make each aware of the unfolding situation.

Steward said each building on campus has a designated contact person, who then follows a set of procedures for informing the rest of the building about the situation.

Part of Steward's job, he said, is not just alerting students and staff to a threat, but also simply to inform them of the situation. The email sent to students the day after the tragedy is just one way of communicating with students and staff.

"Email is probably the most universal way to get a hold of everyone now," Steward said. "Ideally, if at a given moment there are 3-to-4,000 people on campus, there (should be) a magic button you can push and communicate

SEE 'PLANS'
ON PAGE 11

Kelly Center offers grief counseling

Mike Courson
Staff Writer

In light of the recent tragedy at Virginia Tech, the Kelly Center is offering counseling services to all Fort Hays State students and staff. Kenton Olliff, director of the Kelly Center, explained why an event even thousands of miles away can affect someone.

"A lot of times after tragedies like at Virginia Tech, students tend to be more cautious, more nervous, things like that," Olliff said. "They may be upset

that something like that could happen on a university campus because those are our peers, so they may want to come in and talk about things. Also, after a tragedy like that, if a student or staff member has had trauma in their past, the feelings they had with that past trauma may resurface, so we'll talk to them and process those things with them also."

Olliff added that students often reach out to friends first. "We haven't yet had a real influx of people coming in," he said. "A lot of times, students will go

to their friends first to process and talk about things. If they're not getting what they need or they don't feel better, then we usually see them at the Kelly Center."

The Kelly Center is open 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday, and open 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The Center does have a pager for after hours or weekend needs and the number for that pager can be obtained by calling the Kelly Center hotline during closed hours.

A short memorial service for those who died at Virginia Tech will be held at 11:45 a.m. today in the Quad

EDITORIAL

Shooting reminder of life’s frailty

Last week’s shooting at Virginia Tech acted as a sobering reminder of the unpredictable nature of life and death.

A month ago, Virginia Tech was just another college campus. Students attended class, partied and went about their usual business.

Although it is a much bigger campus, the lives of students there were probably not much, if any, different from those of students right here at Fort Hays State.

Then the unpredictable happened and suddenly the lives of 36 people, some professors and some students, were suddenly and unceremoniously extinguished. And all it took was the deranged action of one individual.

But tragedies happen all the time. Car accidents, tornadoes, hurricanes, floods, machine accidents, cancer. The bottom line is that human life is very fragile and a multitude of unpredictable events can destroy it.

That is why it is so important not to waste a single day. Live your life to its fullest. Don’t let anyone hold you back from your dreams. Go all out. You only get one shot at life.

These may all sound like cliches, but those students at Virginia Tech may have thought so too a month ago.

Now they are dead.
Carpe Diem!
Seize the day!
-Zach Becker
For the Editorial Board

All good things...don’t have to end

The end of an era...
And the beginning of another...
I hope you’ve all enjoyed reading *The Edge* student newspaper over the last two years.

We beat the odds. We went the distance.

With a budget under \$1,000, a couple computers, and a volunteer staff, I imagine most didn’t give us a fighting chance of survival when we first came out.

Survive we did. In fact, we’ve built a loyal readership.

That is not to say it has always been easy (or ever easy, for that matter). We’ve definitely had our ups and our downs over the years, but I take pride in each and every issue we’ve published.

I know I’ve poured my heart and soul into this newspaper and given it everything I could each and every time.

I’ve also had a remarkable group of staff members who have done the same. It takes a special kind of person to give their time and energy to a project from which they do not expect to receive any financial compensation. To all the dedicated staff members of *The Edge*, I thank you for your countless hours of hard work. You made the dream of *The Edge* a reality.

As you probably inferred, this will be the final edition of *The*



Zach
Becker
Editor

Edge student newspaper.

But don’t quit reading yet.

Our next issue will mark the beginning of a new adventure: *The Edge* independent community newspaper.

You see, I will be graduating from Fort Hays State soon, and *The Edge* will, too.

Maybe I’m crazy. Maybe I don’t know to quit while I’m ahead. Whatever the case, I’ve got another one of those wild ideas – one that I think I can make work with a lot of hard work.

Basically, my vision is that of community journalism. I see an independent publication staffed by a core group of editors (I’ve got a pretty good start on that core already) along with a wide array of volunteer contributors – people of all ages from the Hays community who want to contribute to an unbiased publication solely centered on them.

No wire services. Indepth and investigative news coverage. Local opinions

and letters to the editor. Online coverage. Strong feature articles about the community. Local sports coverage. Online video and audio features. Exclusive reporting you won’t find anywhere else.

And the publication will be centered on the ideal journalistic qualities of honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service. In other words, we’ll keep living up to the ideals we’ve had since the beginning of *The Edge*.

And in case you were wondering, we’re looking to target the 8-to-94-year-old age demographic (don’t all publications need a target age demographic?). But if you happen to be a 6-year-old with a high reading level, or a 96-year-old whose mind is still intact, you too are welcome to read the new iteration of *The Edge*.

And for those at Fort Hays; don’t worry. We are not leaving you behind. We will still provide excellent campus coverage. This change is more like a branching out of *The Edge* then anything else. Plus, we’ll distribute on campus just like before.

And our twice-monthly tabloid publication still won’t cost you a cent.

Look for it this summer.

If you are interested in contributing to or advertising in The Edge newspaper or have other questions or comments, contact us at edgenewspaper@gmail.com.

Union Station very nice, but a bit expensive

Not long ago, Union Station at Memorial Union opened after several months of reconstruction.

Now that they’ve had a bit of time to settle in, I thought I’d offer my opinion on the new facility and food service.

First let me point out, though, that the Union looks wonderful. It is well decorated with stylish hanging lamps, a multicolored marble floor, carpet in the cafeteria section, a semi circle of bar stools and two pool tables just to the left of the entrance.

The downstairs has a carpet, a large TV and Mondo Subs is set up in the back left hand corner.



Jeremy
Scott
Lovin
Staff
Writer

The upstairs cafeteria has your choice of pizza from Pizza Hut, hamburgers from Coyote Jacks and regular cafeteria food.

Be careful on the marble floors, though, as I found myself slipping

and sliding over the cafeteria floor.

The drink station has paper cups, bottled drinks and all the condiments one might need.

The food is very expensive, though, and I found it difficult to stay under the \$5 lunch limit. The personal pan pizzas were over three dollars. The Union also offers a convenience-type store if one needs a pop, a sandwich, gum or coffee. You can even use the Tiger Card meal funds to buy stuff there as long you don’t exceed the \$5 limit. The whole set up is wonderful for those of us who like personal choice; however, the cost to have those choices is very high.

THE EDGE
www.TheOnlineEdge.net

Mission: *The Edge* newspaper staff strives to act as a voice of integrity on the campus of Fort Hays State University. *The Edge* endeavors to comprehensively cover important events and issues on campus and to approach every article with honesty, accuracy, integrity, fairness and public service in mind.

Disclaimer: *The Edge* is a completely independent publication. *The Edge* is neither funded nor sponsored by Fort Hays State University. The views expressed herein reflect only the opinion of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of any person affiliated with the university.

Letters to the editor can be sent to edgenewspaper@gmail.com or mailed to P.O. Box 674, Hays, KS 67601. Letters must include name, address, class or title and telephone number for verification purposes. *The Edge* reserves the right to edit letters and publication is not guaranteed. **Each person is entitled to one (1) copy of The Edge. Removal of multiple copies is considered theft.**

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Brandon Worf
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Cole Reif
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Jennifer Copp
Staff Members
Mike Courson
Jeremy Scott Lovin
Brandie Johnson

Plans

CONTINUED
FROM PAGE 1

directly with every one of them. We haven’t been able to find what that magic button might be.”

Steward added that the electronic media, such as television and radio, are good ways to communicate important information immediately. Text messages may be something in the future, but Fort Hays currently lacks the capability to send messages to students. “Virginia tech did raise the issue as one to explore,” he said.

In the most serious of situations, a lock-down type situation is possible on campus. However, Steward explained that such a policy has to be used with caution. While it

may work with some threats, a man-made situation would complicate matters.

“In the case of a shooter,” he said, “... it becomes more problematic. Where do you send people where they’d be protected from someone coming in and shooting?”

A better solution, he said, might be to disperse people from campus and to avoid a lockdown situation where a shooter ends up with students and staff who cannot escape.

Steward wanted to stress several facets of the emergency process. First, there are many other emergency situations besides gunmen.

A train derailment that spilled toxic chemicals into the ground or air, downed power lines, and severe weather are

some of the other possible emergencies that could affect campus. Steward also emphasized that the first responders involved are highly trained and competent

“It’s important to also mention that we are coordinated not just with entities on campus but the sheriff’s department, police department, fire department and emergency management at the courthouse,” he said.

In the case of downed power lines, Midwest Energy may be the first responder. In any event, those responding will have received training for the appropriate emergency.

The effects of the Virginia Tech shooting may linger for some and never fade for others, but the tragedy has improved emergency planning on campuses across the nation. Some day those improvements may help save lives.

Shooting Club competes at nationals in San Antonio

Nine individuals recently traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to represent Fort Hays State University at the National Intercollegiate Clay Target Championship, sponsored by the Association of College Unions International.

They competed against approximately 300 students from 33 universities in five different events: American trap, American skeet, international trap, international skeet and the five-stand Sporting Clays event.

Fort Hays State placed in the top 12 in each division, including a fourth-place finish

in American trap.

“The international events are our toughest challenge,” said Dr. Duane Shepherd, associate professor of health and human performance. “International style of shooting is unusual for this region of the country. It introduces a greater variety of height, range and speed to the targets, all which make it more challenging for our team.”

This was Fort Hays State’s second year in the competition.

They went from a 23th-place finish last year to a ninth-place finish this year, resulting

in the National Rifle Association Most Improved High Overall Team Scholarship. The team also received the Ed Migdalski Most Improved American Trap team trophy.

“Last year the competition was very new to everyone, but they made great strides in improving. We have a lot of underclassmen and we expect to get nothing but better in our representation of FHSU,” said Shepherd.

Students who competed are listed by hometown and classification.

CLAYTON: Blake Hillebrand, sophomore.

HAYS: Nate Rohleder, junior.

HOXIE: Bret Oelke, freshman.

KINSLEY: Beth Young, sophomore.

PALCO: Travis Lovelady, graduate student.

SCOTT CITY: Seth Scheuerman, junior; Travis See, sophomore.

SUBLETTE: Brett Whitaker, graduate student.

TEKAMAH, Neb.: Gabe Bromm, junior.

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▼THE EDGE

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Events

Virginia Tech Memorial Ceremony Balloon Launch, April 24 at 11:45am- 12:00pm in front of Memorial Union.

TIGER IDOL with Emcee Eric O'Shea, April 24 at 7:00pm-9:30pm in Beach/Schmidt.

Comedian Jay Black, April 25 at 7:00pm- 8:00pm at Lewis Field Stadium.

Band Midnight to Twelve, April 25 at 8:30pm- 9:45pm at Lewis Field Stadium.

Jamaican Me Crazy LUAU, April 26 at 4:00pm- 8:00pm in the Quad.

Writing Tigers Awards Ceremony, April 26 7:00pm- 8:30pm in the Cody Commons in the Union.

Smoky Hill Art Exhibition, April 27 6:30pm- 8:30pm at 112 W. 11th.

Tiger Softball and Baseball, April 28 at 12:00pm and 2:00pm.

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Tuesday, April 24, 2007

▼Virginia Tech

Media's handling of national tragedies shameful

Mike Courson
Staff Writer

The shooting at Virginia Tech has rightfully been the talk of the nation since Monday morning.

Fortunately, it is not every day that we see something like this. If nothing else, the constant media chatter serves as a memorial for the 32 students and professors who were murdered that day.

Sadly, though, much of the noise has also been about pointing fingers and placing blame. To begin with, one must understand that the media thrives on anxiety. Without it, they don't have an audience. "What common item in your kitchen sink could kill you? Watch these commercials then we will tell you."

Maybe it's unintentional, but it seems that every time something like this happens, the media wants you to fear living your life as normal. Instead, they want you to stay inside and stay tuned so that you can learn why these things happen and how they can be stopped. The sad fact is that they probably can't.

Part of the way they do this is through finger pointing and psychoanalysis, for lack of a better term. The victim of the finger pointing in this case was mostly the VA Tech Campus Police and the administration. Why wasn't the university

closed down after the first murders? Why didn't the emails say something else? Why weren't they sent out sooner? It is amazing how quickly the media disregards that the shooter left the first scene and returned two hours later.

In other words, no one could have possibly known or guessed 30 more people would die that day. Instead, they treated the crime like they would any other. They closed off the crime scene so that it could be processed. All indications pointed to a suspect who had fled to avoid arrest. Most of the time, that is how it happens.

There are at least three reasons the media is so quick to blame. First, if we can blame others, safety becomes a matter of fixing whatever was broken. If the cops messed up, we can replace the cops with competent ones and no one will die again. Second, the news airs 24/7. Competent police work takes time, and even when details

are uncovered, they are not always shared with the media.

Right after a major incident, there is always that gap where the media knows something happened, but doesn't have all the facts. Instead of reporting, they bring on all kinds of experts to speculate what might have happened and why. It can be confusing differentiating between fact and speculation.

Finally, there is anger after an event like this. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, a well-known psychologist, said there are five stages of grieving, anger being the second after denial.

There is no denying the event when cameras are on the scene almost instantly, so everyone moves on to anger. In this case, the shooter at whom we wanted to be angry was dead from a self-inflicted gunshot.

The media needed someone to blame and started with the police and administration. However, it seemed rather unjustified. The VA Tech campus is huge, and it has a lot of people.

That campus has a bigger population than most Kansas towns. If someone is murdered at the post office, and all evidence points to the crime being over, you do not close the café on the other end of town. Why would the university close

down all buildings when only one was affected? Unlike at Columbine, the VA Tech cops gained quick access to the building, forcing the assailant to shoot himself, which presumably saved lives.

One other unfortunate component of media coverage like this is the way they have to alienate the guilty party.

How was this person different from everyone else? When they find that difference, no matter how obscure it is, that becomes the cause of the crime. And because we don't behave that way ourselves, we know we will never commit a violent crime. Fortunately, neither will most who share the behavior, but now they feel guilty about it. See, the media doesn't just make us anxious. They make us anxious and then they soothe most of us.

Could this tragedy have been prevented? Probably not. An individual who is not afraid to die is hard to stop. Look at the suicide bombers in the Middle East. How could you prevent such a thing? Armed guards every 20 feet everywhere you look? Even then a determined and suicidal gunman could get off a few rounds. The media knows deep-down that these things cannot be prevented by placing blame, but who's going to watch the channel that takes away that hope?

▼Brandon's Reality Check

Worf reflects on time at Edge

Brandon Worf
Staff Writer

Normally I can be a pretty lazy person, but lately I've really been bucking that image in favor of someone who would normally fall under the definition of a masochist.

I also tend to reserve this column for generally lamenting about the various inadequacies, disparities, and general stupidity that society tends to generate, but not this time.

I've been writing for *The Edge* for well over a year now, as well as doing some photographic endeavors, and it has proved to be quite interesting at times, especially during the SGA elections and the period during which SGA deals with everyone's favorite subject known as allocations (just ask the Fringe Theater guys,

they'll tell you all about it). Of course, the opportunity to sit here and rant about whatever I feel like for roughly 600 words and then to have it published is something most people don't get (or don't take, in some cases).

Some days it's difficult to come up with a subject and other times I can't decide on what I should focus on.

I recently purchased a brand new Canon 30D D-SLR for various purposes, but mostly to supplant my need for something that could produce results on demand, and it really delivered, as some of you might notice in this issue (at least I hopes you'll notice).

While it's made my job a lot easier with respect to what I do for the photography, it has in-

creased my workload tenfold, and I can tell you that I honestly I'm not thrilled about that. But I guess it's a double-edge sword when I go out and spend my student loan on a digital SLR package that I'll admit was far from cheap.

Should I be glad that I have something comparable to what some professionals use? I suppose so.

On the other hand, it gives myself and my editor a bit more

leverage with the visual side of things when we need it, and I'm sure it will prove itself more than worth it in the end.

How I got into all this is odd. I started doing this midway through last year after being referred to my editor by a friend, and then it was mainly to do photography, but I got conned into doing some writing, and before too long, I had a column and didn't even realize it until it pretty much became a given piece of content in every issue.

To say the least, I'm glad it ended up that way. Not that I'd ever really be overly upset if it weren't exactly expected on a routine basis, but it is nice to be in that position.

So in retrospect, it's been a

good ride this year and overall. While this is the last published issue of the semester, it may be the last published issue we have for awhile.

Our faithful editor, Zach, graduates this summer, and what becomes of *The Edge* remains to be seen, but I certainly hope that things end up in the direction of continuity, so I can at least feel justified in paying interest on an item that essentially amounts to a new toy for me.

Of course, I hope I'm back over the summer, or after, doing what I do each time we publish (which is what I'm doing now, waiting until the last minute). That will at least be satisfaction enough.

In the mean time, I'll see you guys around.

FEATURES

Voran to compete for Miss Kansas

Zach Becker
Editor

Despite the fact that Laura Voran is a beauty pageant winner and will be competing for the title of Miss Kansas this June, she insists she's just an average student.

"I go to class in my sweatpants. I go to class without makeup sometimes. I'm just a regular person," said Voran, a 21-year-old senior from Cimarron. "But then whenever its time for business, I get my stuff together and get it done."

In fact, Voran says that despite notions to the contrary, those who compete in beauty pageants are not physically perfect.

"You walk backstage (at a pageant) and people are like painting their legs so they look flawless," she said. "There's always the butt glue that goes on with the swimsuit so that they don't ride when you're walking across the stage."

"There are so many things backstage that I walked into my first rehearsal and I'm like, 'Are you serious, this really is going on.' People think, 'Oh my God, they're so perfect.' No."

"It's a whole other world." Voran started competing in beauty pageants last year, but it has been something she has dreamed about since she was a youngster.

"I'd sit in front of the TV when I was a little girl and I would like stare up and watch the Miss America pageants and say, 'That is going to be me someday,'" she said. "I never knew there was so much involved in this, but I don't regret it because if I were to have aged out, I would have always wondered, 'Could I have done that?'" I try to live with no regrets."

While each pageant provides opportunities to win scholarships, pageantry is a very expensive hobby. Some contestant's dresses alone cost over \$1,000. On top of that, Voran also enrolls in voice lessons, interview lessons, talent lessons and modeling lessons. Luckily, sponsors do pick up some of the tab. On top of all this, Voran also has a full-time course load, volunteers for both Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Alpha Kappa Psi, while also working about 20 hours a week at Carlos O'Kelly's.

Voran, a finance and accounting major, has three pageants un-

der her belt. She competed in the Miss Great Plains/Miss Wheat Capital pageant in Wellington, the Miss Sunflower pageant in Rose Hill, where she was named second runner-up, and the Miss Dodge City pageant, where she took first place. Her win in the Miss Dodge City pageant qualifies her to compete in the Miss Kansas pageant, where 21 other girls await.

Voran recalls the excitement of winning her crown for Miss Dodge City.

"My crown would travel with me everywhere I went," she said, making note of the fact that she has many duties as Miss Dodge City, including many public appearances. "I would keep (the crown) at my side because I didn't want anything to happen to it."

While there are many different areas of competition in the pageants, Voran said that the interview portion is the most difficult. Because she is an accounting major, the judges ask her some difficult questions about her field. "You really have to study and know your stuff," she said, adding that the experience in front of the judges can pay dividends later when interviewing for jobs.

Another area of the competition is the talent portion. Voran's talent is singing, but she's seen quite a range of different talents, all the way from gymnastics tumbling to magic tricks.

Other areas of the competition include a swimsuit portion and evening gown, among a few others. Voran said she works out three hours a day just to stay in shape for the swimsuit competition.

The Miss Kansas competition will be held June 6 through June 9 at Pratt Community College. Ticket information can be found online at www.misskansas.org. If Voran were to win, she will be awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.



COURTESY OF WHEATSTRAW PHOTO
Fort Hays student Laura Voran is shown in several of her photos that will be used in the Miss Kansas competition.



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SPORTS

Park not packed, but Tigers still deliver

Cole Reif
Sports Editor

After two previous attempts to hold the annual event were pushed back due to the weather, the Fort Hays State baseball team finally received the chance to take the field for "Pack the Park" last Friday night at Larks Park.

Tiger fans poured into the Park, but missed the attendance record set two years ago of 1,868 by a large margin. The 657 recorded people that did show up saw two victories for the Tiger team against Southwest Baptist University.

The entire weekend was plagued with winds gusting into the park, providing excellent conditions for the pitchers. Fort Hays State received a beautifully-pitched ballgame from Bobby Lewton (6-3) who threw all seven innings in the opening game to lead the Tigers to a 9-2 victory.

The Bearcats from Southwest Baptist would tighten things up in game number two, though. This game remained scoreless heading all the way into the 7th inning where the Tigers would finally put a run on the scoreboard.

The 7th frame did not start out nicely, as the first two batters grounded out for two quick outs. Then, Brent Biggs singled to left center-field to get on base. Dusty Washburn followed that up with a single to right field, which was good enough to advance Biggs all they way to third base. Next, Rob Nel-

son stepped up to the plate and hit the game's only RBI as he doubled to left field to bring Biggs in for the go-ahead run.

This run would end up being all the Tigers needed to get their second win of series, 1-0. Justin Randa (5-2) gets credited with the win after eight and a third innings pitched with 7 strikeouts.

Fort Hays State faced off with Southwest Baptist once again on Saturday in another doubleheader.

The Tigers scored quickly and often in the first game to cruise to an 11-1 win. The Tigers brought in all 11 of their runs in the first three innings, including a 9-run third inning. Jason Pfeifer and Nelson led the batting attack for the Tigers, each going 3-for-3. Tom Goodwin (6-2) gets chalked up the win after giving up only one run in five innings of work.

Fort Hays State would complete the sweep with a 6-2 victory in the final game of the series against the Bearcats.

Matt Augustine, a freshman pitcher from Colby, has been a pleasant surprise to the Tiger ball club. Augustine improved his record to a perfect 4-0 on the season.

The four-game sweep bumps the Tigers' record to 29-15 overall and 17-10 in the MIAA. The Tigers will get their first look at Pittsburg State University this Friday as they travel to Pittsburg for the 4-game series against the Gorillas.



BRANDON WORF/THE EDGE
At top, a Tiger baseball player hits a bunt. At left, Tiger pitcher Bobby Lewton throws a pitch in a recent game.

Tennis team finishes up season in Missouri

The Tiger tennis team wrapped up their first season in the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association at the MIAA Tournament held in St. Joseph, Mo., this past weekend.

Fort Hays State was given the No.-8 seed, which warranted them a chance to play the No.-1 seeded Washburn University in the opening round. The Tigers could not

shake the nationally-ranked Lady Blues, losing this one 5-0 to fall to the consolation bracket.

Although the Tigers were unable to pick up any regular season conference wins, they would pick up their first win over an MIAA opponent as they defeated Missouri Southern in the consolation semifinals.

Rebekah Lynn, Brette Baldwin and Kris

Martin all picked up wins for the Tigers in singles action. Baldwin and MaryAnne Talbott teamed up along with Martin and Mary Kate McKee to get victories in doubles play.

Fort Hays State would play Northwest Missouri State in the 5th-place match. The Tigers could not get much going though as they fell to the Bearcats, 5-1.

Doubles partners, Baldwin and Talbott, were the only Tigers to pick up a win in the final match.

Fort Hays State notched a 6th-place finish in their first MIAA Tournament. The Tigers concluded their season with a 5-9 record. The Tigers will also lose two seniors. MaryAnne Talbott and Helen Harris both finished their careers at Fort Hays State.

Softball wins four-of-five, defeats Missouri Western

Cole Reif
Sports Editor

The last week or so has been productive for the Fort Hays State softball team. The Tigers have won four of their last five games, and have currently won two in a row. Those two wins came from yesterday's doubleheader with Missouri Western State at Tiger Stadium.

The Tigers won the opening game, 8-5. 75 percent of their runs came in the third inning when the Tigers posted 6 runs in that single inning.

Catcher Hallie McMillen went 2-for-4 in game one while second baseman Anna Herl hit 2-for-3 with 2 RBI's. Adrian Mohr (8-9) receives the win for the Tigers.

Game number two had its waves from both the Tigers and the Griffons. Fort Hays State jumped out to an early 4-0 lead after the first two innings. Missouri Western would tie the game with a 4-run inning in the third. The very next inning, the Tigers put up four runs of their own to get the lead back 8-4. The Griffons answered with three runs in the fifth inning and the game-tying

run in the seventh frame to send the game to extra innings.

Both teams went scoreless in the 8th frame, extending the game another inning. Fort Hays State got things done on the defense side in the top of the 9th inning and with two outs in the bottom of the inning, Adrian Mohr hit an RBI double down the leftfield line to score the game-winning run.

Mohr was helping her own cause, as she came in to pitch the last two innings of the game. Mohr (9-9) not only gets the walk-off double but also picks up her 9th win of the season.

The Tiger softball team improves their record to 19-30 overall and 8-4 in the MIAA. Their conference record positions themselves in a tie for 3rd place in the MIAA with Washburn University with only six games left before the conference tournament. Fort Hays State travels to Pittsburg State tomorrow for two games and then another doubleheader at Emporia on Saturday before concluding the regular season with a series against Northwest Missouri State at home on Sunday.



BRANDON WORF/THE EDGE
An unidentified Tiger softball player swings at a pitch in a recent game. The Tigers have won four-out-of-five games.

Musicians set to travel to Taiwan

Brandon Worf
Staff Writer

Terry Crull is leaving on a jet plane. Along with the Fort Hays Singers, various other music faculty and an itinerary that would make most travelers cringe. Headed to Taiwan in the middle of May, the audition-based group will be spending ten days traveling around the country and performing at various schools, universities, and concert halls for students and citizens alike.

"We're gonna be busy for sure," Crull said. "Two of our performances are fairly large exposure events. We're performing at the National Taipei University, which to people in Taiwan is like what Harvard is to us over here in the U.S"

In addition to performances, the students involved in Singers will also have the opportunity to experience master classes from some of the top musicians in Taiwan. On the other side, students attending schools such as the Tak Ming Institute will be able to receive master classes from the Fort Hays State faculty going on the trip.

"Our Director of Athletic Bands and low-brass teacher, Gary Brattin, taught for 10 years in Taiwan and is fluent in Mandarin Chinese, so he will play a big role along with the [Tak Ming] exchange students who are here at FHSU now in helping communicate between our group and the people we're going to visit," said Crull.

With such a large group going, the cost was quite high.

"Roundtrip airfare per person came out to roughly \$1000 each, and while it sounds expensive, the Singers have been raising funds as a group to try and offset the cost to each person. The university is covering about half of each person's total cost, while the other half is obligatory by the student to be covered," said Crull. When asked about the individual expense, he remarked, "It comes out to about \$750 a person, and with donations, grants, fundraising and even sponsors, we've managed to help them out quite a bit." As for the faculty members, it's a different story, according to Crull.

"The music faculty have their own travel funds allocated to them by the university that they can use for whatever travel they need to, relating to their position within the music department. But that's not going to cover it all, so most of us are paying a lot of our expenses out of our own pockets," he said.

While most of the students going on the trip are American citizens, a handful of them are Tak Ming students already studying here in the U.S., some of which will be showcasing their homes and schools to the rest of the attendees as part of the tour.

"We've got a lot on our plates for the whole length," said Crull. "Between touring, performing, and general sight-seeing, the only time we'll have to be bored will be on the plane ride."



BRANDON WORF/THE EDGE
Terry Crull directs the members of the Fort Hays Singers during Monday's rehearsal in Palmer Recital Hall in Malloy Hall. The Singers are preparing to tour in Taiwan after commencement in May.

The Edge staff wins 13 awards at KACP contest

Members of The Edge staff won numerous awards at the Kansas Associated Collegiate Press convention held in Wichita on April 15 and 16.

Staff members won a total of 13 awards in individual categories in the four-year public newspaper division, while the overall publication won a bronze medal. Zach Becker, editor, was also named first runner up in the four-year public newspaper Collegiate Journalist of the Year competition.

"I was very proud of how well our volunteer staff did at contest," Becker said, adding that the bronze medal was an improvement from the honorable mention they received at last year's competition. "While we don't have anywhere near the amount of funding the other publications do, we've made up for it with sheer heart and determination."

Staff members attending the convention included Becker, Jennifer Copp, business manager, Brandon Worf, photo editor, and Mike Courson, staff writer.

The Edge staff members receiving awards were as follows:

Tyler Messenger, honorable mention in photo essay and honorable mention in feature photography; Mike Courson, honorable mention in column writing; Cole Reif, honorable mention in sports writing and third place in sports column writing; and Zach Becker, honorable mention in news writing, third place in infographics, honorable mention and third place in headline writing, honorable mention and first place in editorial writing and first place in column writing.

For the overall publication competition, each newspaper submits three consecutive issues for judging on a point system. Certain point totals correlate to certain awards, while the highest rated newspaper is awarded the All-Kansas award.

For the individual categories, each newspaper was allowed to send five clipping from each category for judging.

In the Collegiate Journalist of the Year competition, each applicant sent in a resume, along with a cover letter, three letters of recommendation and clippings of the student's work.

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Tuesday, April 24, 2007

RODEO

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BRANDON WOLF/THE EDGE
Members of the rodeo team perform at the Fort Hays State University Rodeo Arena. The rodeo was held April 20-22.